

Ugly Habits (7) – Envy

1. What is envy?

Genesis 26:13-15 : *[Isaac] began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. Now the Philistines stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they filled them with earth.*

Genesis 37:3-4, 11 : *Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colours. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. ... And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

1 Samuel 18:7-9 : *So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” So Saul eyed David from that day forward.*

Daniel 6:3-4 : *Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.*

Mark 15:9-11 : *But Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them.*

Acts 13:44-45 : *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.*

2 Corinthians 12:20 : *For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults.*

2. What does the Bible say about envy?

Mark 7:18-23 - *So he said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?” And he said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”*

Galatians 5:26 : *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

1 Corinthians 3:3 : *For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

Galatians 5:19-21 : *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you*

beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:28-29 : And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ...

1 Corinthians 13:4 : Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up...

James 3:14-16 : But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Genesis 37:18-20 : Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. 19 Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! 20 Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

1 Peter 2:1-3 : Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Proverbs 27:4 : Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?

Proverbs 14:30 : A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.

3. What can we do about envy?

1 John 1:9 : If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 9:13 : For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Proverbs 23:17 : Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Proverbs 24:19-20 : Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the wicked; for there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

Romans 13:11-13 : And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

Romans 8:28 : And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 12:15 : Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Philippians 4:11-13 : I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.